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Application No. 10/512,036
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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for treating improving the metal effects and further processing criteria as well as the flexibility of resin coated decorative papers, wherein a solution of one or more alkaline metal salts delaying hardening of the resin is applied, during printing with metal effect inks by gravure printing.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied in a gravure printing method by a fond cylinder or another adequate method onto printed or non-printed standard base paper.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein sodium aluminate is dissolved in > 60 °C hot water, in order to produce the a mixture in the desired concentration.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and has a proportion of 0.5 up to maximum 5 weight-% related to the solution complete ready-for-print preparation.

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Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and 14 is used.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and is applied in the ready solution onto the paper by means of a subcoat fond cylinder and gravure printing depending on the fond volume and the machine speed.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m² up to maximum 25 g/m² wet is observed.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein for effect inks, namely, pearl, silver, and irisation inks, (pearl, silver, and irisation inks,) in higher concentrations on the respective printed decorative papers, a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied onto the surface of the metallic prints by means of gravure printing with a subcoat fond cylinder.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate is dissolved in > 60 °C hot water, in order to produce the a mixture in the desired concentration.

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Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The mixture according to claim 25, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate has a solid contents of 0.5 up to maximum 5 % related to the solution complete ready-for-print preparation.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and pH 14 is used.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate in the ready solution is applied onto the paper by means of a subcoat fond cylinder and gravure printing depending on the fond volume and the machine speed.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 29, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m² up to maximum 25 g/m² wet is observed.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Cancelled).

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is applied in a gravure printing method by a subcoat cylinder.